

Library



ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1959

ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1959

RICHARD SHORT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.ED., L.R.F.P.S.(G), D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health,
Area Health Office,
Wagonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2263

GLADSTONE BEATY, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector,
The Council House,
Wagonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2355

T.G. MORALLE, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector,
The Council House,
Wagonway Road,
ALNWICK.

Tel: Alnwick 2355



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28801301>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1959. This is my fifth report to you.

The report shows a marked rise in the stillbirth rate, a small rise in the birth rate, and a drop in infant mortality and death rates.

The estimated mid-year population also decreased, this time by 30, and population figures from 1931 onwards can be seen on Page 6.

The births increased from 125 to 130, giving a rate of 17.88 per 1,000 of the population, which, when multiplied by the Comparability Factor of 0.99, gives a rate of 17.70. The Comparability Factor is an adjusted rate allowing roughly for any difference in the population constitution by sex and age. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.5 per 1,000 of the population.

The stillbirths went up from 3 in 1958 to 7 in 1959, giving a rate of 51.09 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with the national rate of 20.7. On the other hand, infant mortality dropped to the low rate of 7.69 per 1,000 total live births, against a national rate of 22.0. On Page 9 and Page 10 I have shown a table and graph giving the district infant mortality rates and national rates from 1930 to 1959, and while, as one would expect with a small population there are wide fluctuations, on average, from 1950 onwards the rates compare favourably with those for England and Wales. Prior to this the average appears to have been above the national rate.

The number of deaths compared with the previous year dropped by 23, giving a crude death rate of 12.65 per 1,000 of the population. When multiplied by the Comparability Factor of 1.05 the rate was 13.28, while the national rate was 11.6.

According to the Chief Medical Officer in the Report of the Ministry of Health for England and Wales 1958, "Diseases of the circulatory system now account for over one-third of total deaths. Second in the hierarchy of destruction but an appreciable way behind, are the cancers, accounting for about one-sixth of the total, to be followed by vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system to the extent of one-seventh. Taking vascular lesions together with diseases of the heart we see that they account for over half the total number - thus supporting the truth of the maxim that a man is as old as his arteries."

Thus in keeping with the above, deaths in the district from diseases of the heart and circulatory system, including vascular lesions of the nervous system, accounted for 63% of all deaths compared with 59% in 1958. Coronary heart disease was assigned to 19% of all deaths, compared with 24% and 16% for 1958 and 1957 respectively. Last year I gave a classification of the coronary deaths, and again I think it is of interest to show these deaths divided in the Registrar General's classification of occupational groups, which is as follows:-

Classification	Males	Females
Class 1 (Professional etc.)	1	-
Class 2 (Intermediate occupations)	2	1 (1)
Class 3 (Skilled occupations)	1 (5)	2 (1)
Class 4 (Partly skilled occupations)	2	1
Class 5 (Unskilled occupations)	1	-
Totals	3 (9)	3 (3)

≡ Figures in brackets are deaths at age 65 years and over.

I have also included on Page 5 a table showing the classification of deaths from coronary heart disease for the whole of North Northumberland.

Although the number of cancer deaths dropped by 2 to 16, the percentage of all deaths compared with the previous year went up from 16% to 17%. There were three cases of lung cancer, but the major number of cancers was under the heading "Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms".

In order to obtain some indication of the trends in relation to the two major killers, namely heart disease and cancer, a graph is shown on Page 7, from which it will be seen that there has been a slight, but steady, rise in deaths from heart disease and cancer. Most of this rise is probably due to better methods of diagnosis and ageing of the population.

It is also interesting to compare the various districts in North Northumberland, and for this purpose I have included a table on Page 7 which shows the respective percentages of deaths from cancer, diseases of the heart and circulatory system, and from coronary heart disease.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year, only 18 notifications being received. One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was registered, and there was no death from this cause.

For the third successive year the Mass Miniature X-ray Unit visited Alnwick and Berwick. Two weeks were spent, during which 1,873 examinees passed through the unit. 996 of these were examined in Alnwick. Altogether, 2 new cases of active tuberculosis were discovered.

Primary Immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continued at a satisfactory level, but the number of "booster" or re-inforcing injections given was not so high. The Immunity Index is the number of children immunised, (primary or booster), during the last five years, expressed as a percentage of the total estimated mid-year child population and this is shown on Page 11 for the districts in the North No. 2 Area.

In my 1958 Report I stated that the response by the 15 to 25 age group to the campaign for vaccination against poliomyelitis was "pathetically barren". The complacency of this age group was, however, shaken following the death of the Birmingham City footballer Jeff Hall, but the demand for vaccination did not mount in the district for some time after it had been aroused in districts to the South of Alnwick. Public sessions were held during May, and the campaign publicised by means of advertisements, posters and a loudspeaker van. By the end of the year the position had improved, and details are shown hereunder.

1 - 15 Age Group

12,751 children received two injections (94%) out of an estimated population of 13,573.

15 - 25 Age Group

3,831 persons received two injections (54%) out of an estimated population of 7,040.

<u>Expectant Mothers</u>	575
<u>Doctors and Families</u>	41
<u>Ambulance Staff and Families</u>	17
<u>Hospital Staff</u>	57

A total of 17,272 received two injections since the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1959. Of these, 12,940 received their third injection - approximately 75%

I am rather concerned about the delay in the Slum Clearance Programme which has been caused by the absence of new council houses to replace the unfit property. As reported by the Public Health Inspector, only 31 of the 80 houses scheduled in the five-year programme have been demolished. The target was set in 1955. However, if the plans for the Green Batt Redevelopment Area and the Clayport North West Area could be expedited the problem would soon be resolved.

Another problem which has engaged me, is that of the Barresdale flats. These flats were erected just over ten years ago as a temporary expedient when there was a very urgent housing shortage. Although there is still a housing shortage many of the families have outgrown the accommodation and there are many other disadvantages.

Before completing this report I must record the work of the Alnwick and District Old People's Welfare Committee which was formed in 1957 and since then has developed a chiropody service which has proved to be extremely beneficial. Since the inception of the scheme over 1059 treatments have been given at clinics in Alnwick, Amble, Longframlington and Embleton, and over 200 elderly persons benefited. A Local Leaders Course was also organised under the auspices of the King George VI Social Service Scheme on the 8th and 15th April, 1959, which was well attended and was very instructive.

This is my last report to you, and before leaving to take up another appointment I should like to thank the members of the Council for their kindness and interest, and for making my stay in Alnwick a very happy one. The Clerk, the Surveyor, and the Public Health Inspectors and all the other officers and members of the Council staff have readily assisted me and shown me every consideration. Tribute is also due to the general practitioners who have co-operated to the full and proved loyal friends and colleagues.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

Richard J. H. E.

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 4778 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2456 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 7.

The rateable value was £84,071 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £335.

The estimated mid-year population was 7270 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	79	48	127
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Totals	<u>80</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>130</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			17.88
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births			2.30
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	6	1	7
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			51.09
Total live and still births			137
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			7.69
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			7.87
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			7.69
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			7.69
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>			
Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births			58.39
<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	49	43	92
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			12.65
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			Nil
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			Nil
Deaths from Cancer			16

Table 1 CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1
" " Lung, Bronchus	3	-	3
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	7	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	2	2
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	4	9	13
Coronary Disease, Angina	12	6	18
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1	1
Other Heart Disease	6	6	12
Other Circulatory Disease	4	1	5
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	6	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>49</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>92</u>

Table 2

Deaths from Coronary Thrombosis - North Northumberland
Classification of Occupational Groups

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Class 1 (Professional etc.)	2 -	- (1)
Class 2 (Intermediate occupations)	7* (21)	5 (12)
Class 3 (Skilled occupations)	7 (17)	4 (12)
Class 4 (Partly skilled occupations)	10 (7)	5 (10)
Class 5 (Unskilled occupations)	1 (2)	- (2)
Total	27 (47)	14 (37)
Other Persons (no Gainful Occupation Stated)	1	5

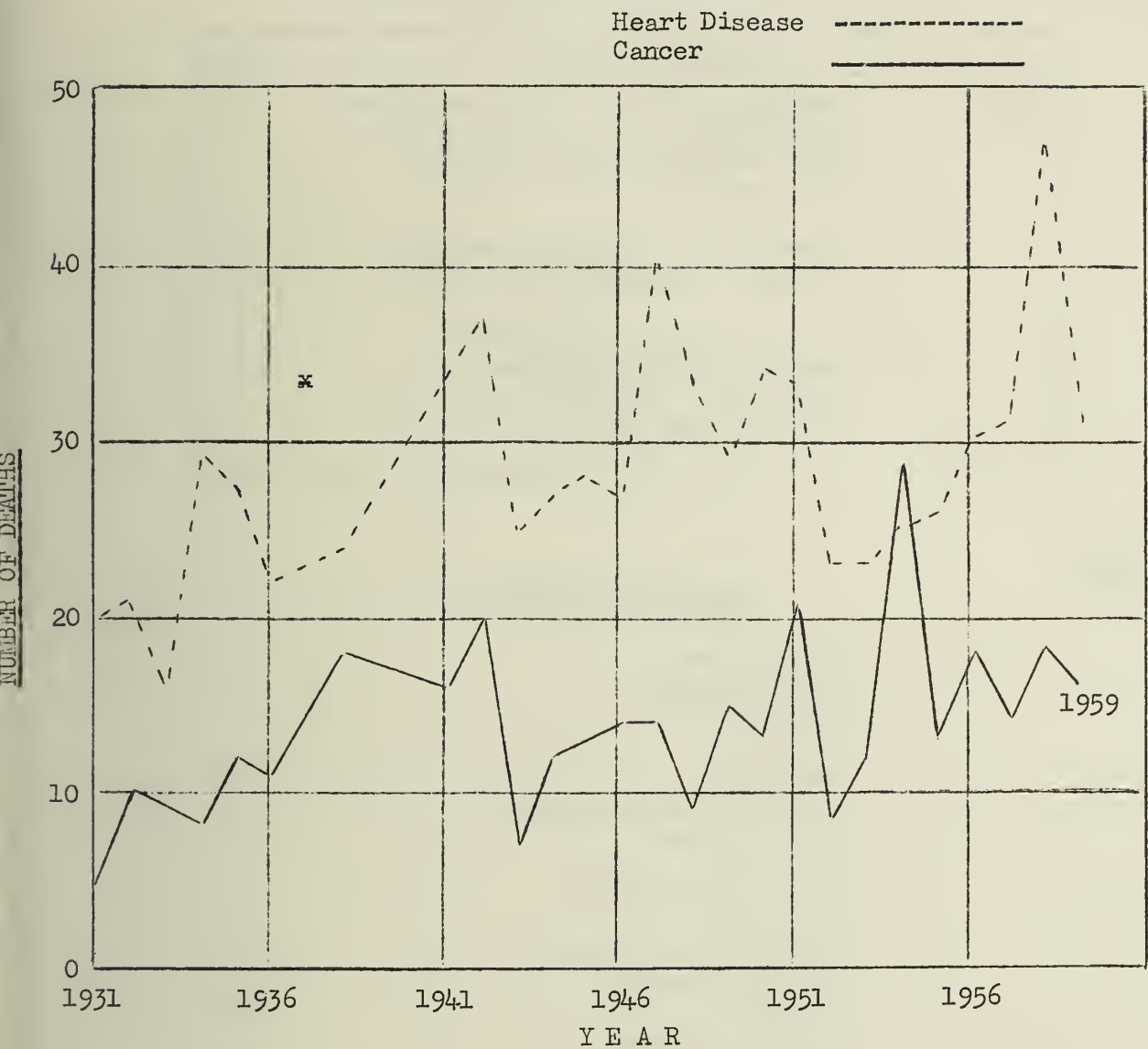
* Figures in brackets are deaths at age 65 years and over.

Table 3

POPULATION, AND DEATHS FROM CANCER AND HEART DISEASE1931 - 1959

Year	Population	Cancer	Heart Disease
1931	6,875	5	20
1932 ✕	Records incomplete	10	21
1933	6,973	9	16
1934	6,905	8	29
1935	6,950	12	27
1936	6,916	11	22
1937 ✕	Records incomplete	-	-
1938	6,875	18	24
1939)	-	-	-
1940)	-	-	-
1941)	Records incomplete	16	-
1942)	-	20	37
1943)	-	7	25
1944)	-	12	27
1945	6,641	13	28
1946	6,900	14	27
1947	6,935	14	40
1948	7,238	9	33
1949	7,302	15	29
1950	7,252	13	34
1951	7,459	21	33
1952	7,384	8	23
1953	7,386	12	23
1954	7,450	29	25
1955	7,320	13	26
1956	7,310	18	30
1957	7,320	14	31
1958	7,300	18	47
1959	7,270	16	31

DEATHS FROM CANCER AND HEART DISEASE 1931 - 1959



* Records incomplete for years 1937, and 1939 - 1941

Table 4

Deaths from Cancer, Heart & Circulatory Diseases, and
Coronary Thrombosis - North Northumberland. Percentages
and Districts 1959

District	Percentage deaths from		
	Cancer	Heart & Circulatory Diseases (including Coronary Thrombosis)	Coronary Thrombosis
Alnwick U.D.	17%	63%	19%
Alnwick R.D.	17%	55%	14%
Amble U.D.	14%	50%	18%
Berwick Borough	12%	67%	16%
Belford R.D.	9%	67%	26%
Glendale R.D.	25%	57%	26%
Norham R.D.	19%	45%	9%
Rothbury R.D.	21%	48%	15%

Table 5

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Sex	Cause of Death	Age
<u>Males</u>	Fracture of base of skull sustained whilst riding as a passenger in a motor car which collided with a Foden waggon.	27
	Haemorrhage. Fracture of vault of skull. (Motorist/Motor Lorry)	30
	Broncho-pneumonia aggravated by fractured ribs and injury to diaphragm. Was run over by rear wheel of farm tractor.	58

Table 6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	4
Pneumonia	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	1

Table 7

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30-39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40-49	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50-59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 8

INFANT MORTALITY1930-1959

Year	Number of Infant Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Infant Mortality England & Wales
1930	5	42.73	60
1931	7	68.32	66
1932	9	92.78	64
1933	7	60.87	63
1934	5	45.04	59
1935	3	27.77	57
1936	6	56.60	59
1937	✕ Records incomplete	40.0	58
1938	5	57.47	53
1939	✕ Records incomplete	-	51
1940	7	72.91	57
1941	} Records incomplete	100.0	60
1942		44.6	51
1943		46.7	49
1944	4	35.7	45
1945	9	74.6	46
1946	8	59.4	43
1947	11	62.5	41
1948	10	55.2	34
1949	4	30.6	32
1950	1	7.7	30
1951	1	8.8	30
1952	2	15.1	28
1953	4	24.3	27
1954	5	24.6	25
1955	3	20.83	25
1956	3	21.89	24
1957	4	28.98	23
1958	2	16.00	22
1959	1	7.69	22

INFANT MORTALITY 1930 - 1959

Death Rates at ages under one year per 1,000 live births

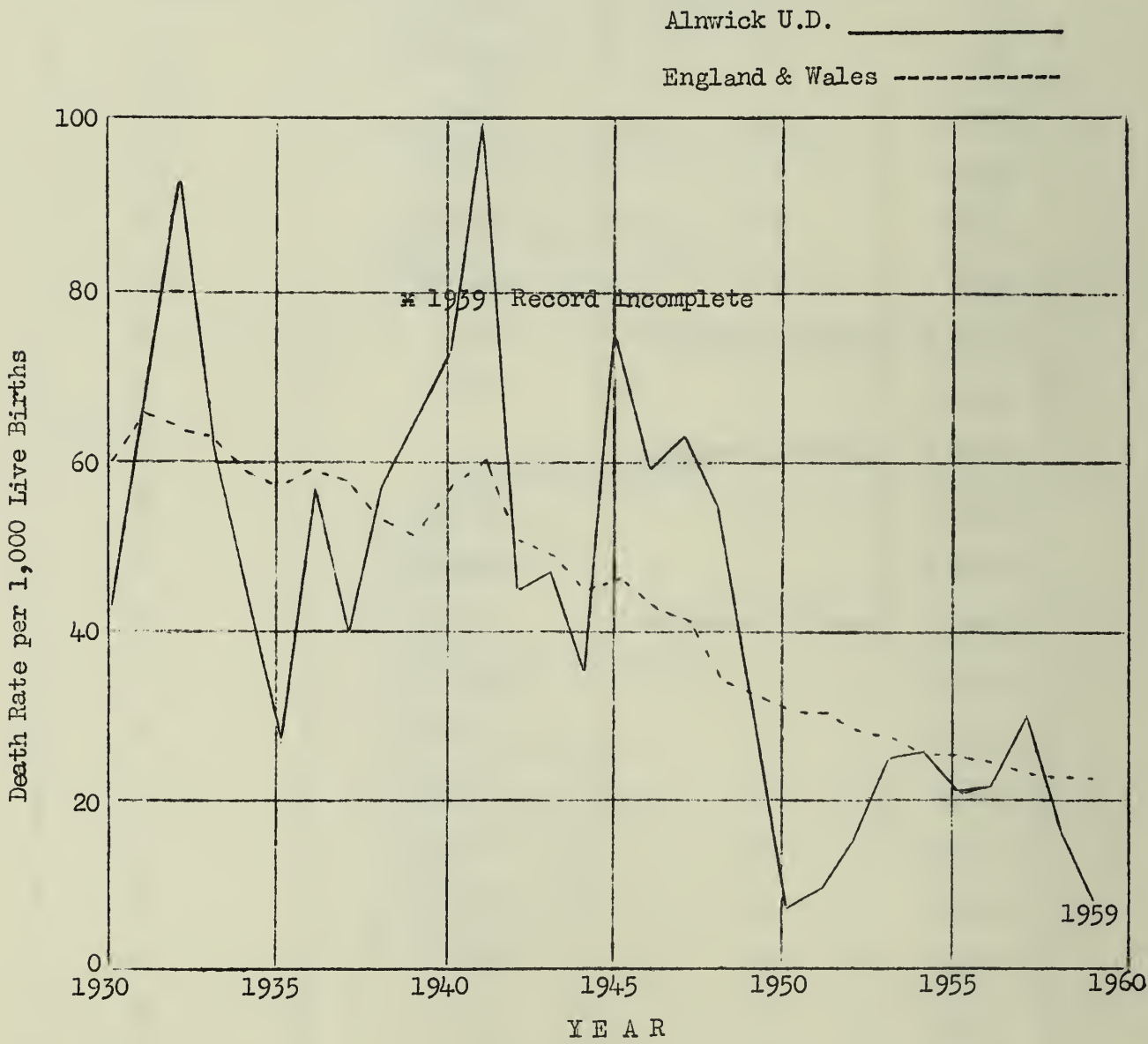


Table 9

INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Intraventricular haemorrhage	3 hours	General Hospital Newcastle.

Table 10

IMMUNISATION

	Primary Immunisation								Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	59	25	-	84
Diphtheria and Whoop- ing Cough	33	22	-	2	-	1	-	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	37	16	2	-	1	-	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	70	38	2	2	1	1	1	115	-	-	-	-	59	25	-	84

IMMUNITY INDEX - NORTH NO. 2

District	1 - 4 Age Group	Under 1 Age Group
Alnwick U.D.	74.6	25.41
Alnwick R.D.	81.8	29.0
Amble U.D.	98.8	41.34
Rothbury R.D.	87.3	26.37
Average per cent for North No. 2		83.8

Table 11

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONSNorth No. 2

District	Number Vaccinated During Period						Number Re-vaccinated					
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Alnwick U.D.	56	31	4	-	3	94	-	-	-	1	13	14
Alnwick R.D.	102	62	15	6	8	193	-	2	-	5	32	39
Amble U.D.	16	15	1	5	1	38	-	-	-	1	3	4
Rothbury R.D.	37	29	1	5	-	72	-	1	1	1	15	18
Total	211	137	21	16	12	397	-	3	1	8	63	75

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1959HOUSING(a) STATISTICS

New Houses Completed During The Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	-	-	-
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By private persons	-	7	7

Total number of inhabited houses in district
 Total number of houses owned by Local Authority

2,456
 984

Closing and DemolitionNumber of Houses

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	-
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	10
3. Houses closed not demolished	-
4. Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	1

REPAIRSHouses made Fit

5. By informal action	14
6. By owners, following statutory notice	-
7. By Local Authority in default of owners	1
8. Demolition orders revoked after reconstruction	-

Houses Patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	-
---	---

IMPROVEMENT GRANTSNumber of Separate Houses(a) Discretionary Grants

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority during the year	24
2. Applications rejected	-
3. Applications approved	24
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£108
5. Total number of houses approved for grant since inception of scheme.	83

(b) Standard Grants

1. Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year.	1
2. Number of houses so provided with	
(a) Bath or shower	1
(b) Wash-hand basin	1
(c) Hot Water Supply	1
(d) Water Closet	1
(e) Food Store	1

(b) OAKY BALKS ESTATE

Work on this new private estate commenced early in the year with the construction of roads and sewers. Plans were approved for the construction of 61 houses, and by the end of the year 4 such houses were completed, and occupied, and a further 16 under construction.

(c) GREEN BATT - BONDGATE REDEVELOPMENT AREA

A further 6 houses have been demolished, making a total of 22 demolitions of the 39 dwelling houses in the area, but otherwise progress has been slow. Construction of roads and sewers, in the first phase of redevelopment, cannot commence until agreement and eventual demolition of business premises in part of the area is completed.

(d) CLAYPORT NORTH WEST AREA

Tenders were invited and accepted for the construction of roads and sewers, and for the first 17 houses to be built. Negotiations are still proceeding to acquire various properties under the "Deed of Gift" Scheme. There are 26 families living in the area.

(e) GENERAL

Delay in proceeding with the Green Batt - Bondgate Redevelopment Area and the Clayport North West Area has caused us to fall behind in our proposed five-year programme submitted to the Ministry in July, 1955. In the report submitted to the Minister it was estimated that 80 houses would be demolished within the five-year period, where actually, to date only 31 have been demolished. There are, however, an additional 20 houses where demolition orders are operative, but some of the tenants have not yet been rehoused.

Since the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into operation on the 14th June, only one application has been made for a standard grant, and this was for all 5 improvements listed. Other enquiries have been made and it is hoped that owners of property which still have a useful life will take this opportunity to bring them up to date with modern amenities. Unfortunately, there are still too many houses which lack these modern amenities, and some have not even a piped internal water supply.

Little interest has been shown in the 1957 Rent Act, and throughout the year no applications have been received for a certificate of disrepair. This landlord and tenant Act, would appear to have failed in its objective, and since the Act came into operation 3 certificates of disrepair have been issued, and none revoked. It was necessary in one case, where a certificate of disrepair had been issued, to carry out works in default of a Section 9 Housing Act, 1957, Statutory Notice.

WATER SUPPLY

With the addition of Rugley Burn source of supply to existing supplies in November of the previous year, it was thought that the total water supply would be sufficient to meet all requirements, until at least the Northumberland County Water Scheme came into operation in 1961. This was not so, due to the exceptionally long dry spell throughout the summer months which caused a reduction of the flow to the burn and almost a complete "dry up", resulting in the level of the Low Service Reservoir becoming dangerously low. To meet this emergency all consumers were issued with warning notices to take steps to prevent wastage, and supplies were cut off to various parts of the town from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m. during the drought period. To boost the Low Service Supply, bulk water was fed from the High Service Reservoir whenever the supply permitted.

There is no doubt but that the ever increasing demand required by industry, new schools, new housing estates, and our future industrial area, will tax our resources to the limit.

The Watermain in Alnmouth Road was renewed in 4" cast iron pipes, to provide a suitable and sufficient supply to the new Oaky Balks Estate. 3" cast iron pipes were also laid in the Oaky Balks Estate. In all, 407 yards of 4", and 1,520 yards of 3", were laid. This work was carried out by W.S. Sample of Warkworth.

Two new water meters were fixed to industrial premises.

Regular sampling of the Low Service Supply was carried out throughout the year, and samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. On receiving reports of two unsatisfactory samples, an examination was made of the chlorination plant, when it was found that the ball valve was leaking. The tank was replaced by a rubber lined tank, and a new valve was fitted.

Summary of Routine Water Samples Taken During the Year (Bacteriological)

	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Suspicious</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Alnwick High Supply	2	-	-	-
Alnwick Low Supply	33	-	-	3
Duke's Supply	2	-	-	-
Private Supplies	11	2	-	1
Total	48	2	-	4

Public Analyst's Reports (Chemical)

	<u>Alnwick High Supply</u>	<u>Alnwick Low Supply</u>
Date received	7.4.59.	7.4.59.
Sample Marked	1c - HS	2c - LS
<u>Chemical Results</u>	<u>Parts per million</u>	
Total solids dried at 180° C	140	265
Chlorine as Chlorides	26.6	24.9
Free Ammonia	-	-
Albuminoid ammonia	-	0.06
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.4	1.3
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 80° F)	0.9	1.2
Total Hardness	90	176
Permanent Hardness	72	160
Temporary Hardness	18	16
Lead and Copper	-	-
Iron	-	-
Appearance and colour (Hazen degrees 5)	Clear and almost colourless	Clear and almost colourless
Smell and Taste	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Fluoride	0.05	0.07
P.H. Value	6.8	7.4

Report - (1c - HS) Alnwick High Supply

This sample of water is of very satisfactory organic purity, it is colourless, clear and free from taste or odour. The Water is soft and slightly acid so that it is possible that it may be somewhat plumbo solvent, although no lead was detected in the sample. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

Report - (2c - LS) Alnwick Low Supply

This sample of water is not so soft as No. 1c - HS and is slightly alkaline, it is not likely, therefore, that it would have appreciable action upon lead. The water is of very satisfactory organic purity and as in the case of No. 1c - HS its physical attributes are excellent. I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for a Public Supply.

(Signed) W. Gordon Carey.

FOOD(1) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

There are 125 food premises in the district, subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and comprising the following trades:-

Public Houses, Hotels, and		Fried Fish and Chips	4
Social Clubs	22	Off Licence Establishments	3
General Dealers	18	Egg Packing Stations	2
Grocers	16	Ice-Cream Manufacturers	1
Butchers	12	Breweries	1
School and Club Canteens	10	Fishmongers	1
Cafes and Snack Bars	11	Mineral Water Manufacturers	1
Fruiterers	7	Bakers and Confectioners	6
Boarding Houses, Hospitals		Chemists	4
and Nurseries	6		

Sixty-six inspections of food premises were made and two notices were served on occupiers to remedy defects. The majority of defects however, were remedied without service of notice, as occupiers appeared willing to carry out suggested works at the time of inspection in order to bring their premises up to the required standard.

There were no prosecutions during the year under the Regulations.

The following defects or deficiencies were remedied:-

Walls replastered and re-decorated	6
Ceilings repaired and re-decorated	3
First-Aid equipment provided	3
Adequate supplies of soap, towels, nail brushes etc.	3
New wash-hand basins provided	2
Instantaneous Hot Water Heaters provided	2
New lockers for personal clothing provided	1
Floors repaired	1

(2) Milk

There are 7 distributors registered to sell designated milk in the district, one of which holds a supplementary licence for the sale of tuberculin tested milk. There are no producer/retailers. Letters were sent to occupiers of dairies drawing their attention to the new provisions of the Milk and Dairies (General Regulations) 1959, and inspections were later carried out to see that such complied with the regulations. As a result of these inspections the following improvements were made:-

New overalls and head coverings provided	2
First-aid equipment provided	1
New wash-hand basin provided	1
Soap, towels and nail brushes provided	1

Results of Samples taken (Bacteriological)

Grade of Milk	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	4	-
Pasteurised	25 *	-
T.T. Pasteurised	10 *	-

* 24 samples of pasteurised and 7 T.T. pasteurised taken by the County Health Inspector at the C.W.S. Creamery Alnwick.

(3) Ice-Cream

34 premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Acts for the sale of ice-cream, and 2 for manufacture and sale of ice-cream, one of which uses the "complete cold mix". 10 samples were taken, the results of which are as follows:-

Number of Samples	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Prov: Grade
6	Not decolourised at the end of 4½ hours.	1
2	Decolourised at the end of 4 hours	2
1	Decolourised at the end of 1 hour	3

One sample of ice-cream powder was obtained and the report thereon stated that there was no extraneous matter, bacillus coli was not grown on culture after reconstituting the sample with sterile saline, and the methylene blue test was negative.

(4) Food Inspection (other than fresh carcase meat)

27 visits were made to food premises for the primary purpose of food inspection. The following were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the East Cawledge Tip:-

70 tins Cooked Meat	3 tins fish
33 tins Vegetables	1 Jar meat paste
8 tins Fruit	1 Chicken
4 tins Milk	

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned = 408 lbs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The municipal-owned slaughterhouse, comprising 7 separate slaughter-halls and lairages, is used by all 10 local butchers requiring slaughtering accommodation. During the year a butcher from the neighbouring authority was allowed to slaughter, after his own slaughterhouse was closed by agreement.

There are no private slaughterhouses in the district.

When the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, came into operation, improvements were carried out, and this entailed the construction of a new building wherein 2 gas boilers, sink and draining board were fitted. A new wash-hand basin was fitted in the W.C. compartment, and liquid soap, paper towels and nail brushes provided. Hot water was provided to the sink and wash-hand basin and to the inspector's office by means of a multi-point instantaneous hot water heater.

It is pleasing to report that full use is being made of these additional facilities, although slaughtermen, generally, are slow in changing their habits and customs, and there is need for a greater improvement in personal and general cleanliness.

In my previous Annual Report I stated that enquiries had been made by a large business firm to establish an abattoir and meat processing factory on the proposed new industrial area. It is regretted that work of construction has not yet commenced, as the life of our slaughterhouse is drawing towards its close, and reports on slaughtering facilities have to be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, by November, 1960.

A claim was made for exchequer grant for meat inspection for the year ended 31st March, 1959. The cost of inspecting "export meat" amounted to £69. 1s. 0d. and the grant payable at the rate of 50% was £34. 10s. 6d. The grant paid for the previous year was £43. 19s. 9d.

27 licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

A record of carcasses slaughtered and inspected is tabulated, and 100 per cent inspection of all carcasses and offal was again achieved - despite an increase from the previous year of 1688 animals slaughtered.

Despite letters being sent to the butchers, and notices displayed in the Auction Mart, 4 carcasses (3 sheep and 1 pig) had eventually to be condemned on account of non-compliance with paragraph 20 of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958. In each case the carcass was not accompanied by its offal, and by a certificate of a veterinary surgeon. Further correspondence in this subject would appear to have stopped this practice.

For the first time on record there were no whole carcasses condemned on account of tuberculosis.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1024 (19)	30 (23)	140 (29)	4926 (113)	876 (12)	-
Dressed and undressed carcasses	-	-	-	10	1	-
Number inspected	1024	30	140	4926	877	-
<u>A. All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses con- demned.	2	5	7	26	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	256	21	25	204	68	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticeri	25.1	86.7	22.8	4.7	7.9	-
<u>B. Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses con- demned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	57	-	-	-	10	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	5.5	-	-	-	1.1	-
<u>C. Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses con- demned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-	-

The number of casualties are shown in brackets and are included in the totals

CYSTICERCOSIS

One viable cyst was found in the external masseter muscle in each case. Both animals were $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 years old, and both were of Irish origin, the length of stay on farms before slaughter being four months.

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND CARCASS MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Cysticercosis	Other diseases and conditions	Total
Cattle	748 lbs.	40 lbs.	4364 lbs.	5152 lbs.
Cows	-	-	2208 lbs.	2208 lbs.
Calves	-	-	456 lbs.	456 lbs.
Sheep and Lambs	-	-	1436 lbs.	1436 lbs.
Pigs	112 lbs.	-	376 lbs.	488 lbs.
Total	860 lbs.	40 lbs.	8840 lbs.	9740 lbs.

PUBLIC CLEANSINGThe removal of household and trade refuse

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is made throughout the district, apart from a few isolated cottages on Alnwick Moor. All refuse is tipped on the East Cawledge Tipping Site.

Number of vehicles employed	2
Manpower, drivers and loaders	5
Tip attendant	1

Forty-seven traders contribute to the "Trade Refuse Scheme" for which £56 was paid. This scheme is based on the amount of refuse collected, the first bin being collected free of charge, and a charge of 10/- per year per bin is made in excess of one.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Satisfactory progress has been made with the construction of the new sewage disposal works, and it is anticipated that the works will be completed late 1960.

Progress Summary

Sedimentation tanks complete.
 Percolating filters complete.
 Humur tanks 90% complete.
 Sludge drying beds 50% complete.
 Storm water irrigation area 75% complete.
 Recirculation pumping station complete except for pumping plant.
 Sludge pumping station complete except for pumping plant.
 All appurtenant pipe work 90% complete.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the district.

RODENT CONTROL

One operator is employed, part-time, and treatments are given free of charge to all domestic premises. A charge, based on time and materials, is made to firms and business premises.

Report for nine months ended 31st December, 1959.

	Type of Property				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All others (including business premises)	Agri-cultural	Total
Number of properties in district.	7	2438	492	32	2969
Number of properties inspected.	5	62	56	12	135
Total inspections including re-inspections.	14	65	62	12	153
Number of properties inspected and which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	3	19	3	4	29
(b) Mice	1	21	4	2	28
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority.	4	37	6	1	48
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	7	40	9	-	56

On account of the long absence through illness of the part-time operator, only one sewer treatment was carried out. This treatment was extended due to inconclusive results obtained through the very wet weather, resulting in baits being washed off manhole benching. 34 manholes were baited, and 6 manholes showed a poison bait take.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by the Local Authority	6	4	-	-
(2) Factories not inc- luded in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	13	2	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	3	-	-
Total	59	20	2	-

2. Defects Found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
Total	7	7	-	-	-

OUTWORK

Nature of Work	<u>Section 110</u> Number of outworks in August list	Number of cases in default in sending lists	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Making wearing apparel etc.	1	-	-
Nature of Work	<u>Section 111</u> Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Making wearing apparel etc.	-	-	-

NUMBER OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADEFood and Drugs Act 1955

Slaughterhouses - meat inspections	325	
Slaughterhouses - repairs and improvements	14	
Butchers Shops - meat inspections	11	
Food premises - inspections (Food Hygiene Regulations)	66	
Market Stalls and vehicles - inspections (Food Hygiene Regulations)	24	
Food premises - food inspections	27	
Dairies - regulations and milk samples	19	
Ice-cream - regulations and samples	18	
Registration of premises (Sec. 16)	<u>5</u>	509

Public Health Act 1936

Water Supply and sampling	188	
Drainage	93	
Building Byelaws (Oakley Balks Estate)	41	
Dustbins	28	
Verminous premises	21	
Filthy premises	5	
Refuse Removal and Refuse Tip	21	
Tents, vans and sheds	6	
Infectious Diseases	7	
Nuisances	14	
Defective W.C.'s	5	
Public Conveniences	15	
Sewage Works	<u>44</u>	488

Housing Acts

Inspections - valuations for advances	10	
- improvement grants	68	
1957 Act - house inspections (Sec. 3)	35	
- repairs (Sec. 9)	32	
- demolition (Green Batt - Bondgate)	18	
- Closing Order (Sec. 17)	1	
- Unfit houses	<u>2</u>	166

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

Inspections - factories with mechanical power	13	
- factories with non-mechanical power	4	
- building sites	<u>3</u>	20

Prevention of Damage By Pests Act 1949

Surveys, treatments and re-visits	83
-----------------------------------	----

Agriculture (Safety, Health, Welfare Provisions) Act 1956

Sanitary Conveniences	21
-----------------------	----

Miscellaneous

Visits to Butchers Shops re condemnation certificates and enquiries re cysticercosis	40	
Council House Inspections (overcrowding and vacant houses)	24	
Problem Families	10	
Auction Mart	<u>9</u>	83

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT 1370

Premises disinfected re Bugs 6, Cockroaches 2, Fleas 1, Moth Larvae 1	10
Premises disinfected re Infectious Diseases	6

C Y S T I C E R C U S B O V I S

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1959

North Northumberland Area

CASES RECORDED

During the twelve months period 19 cases were recorded in slaughterhouses in the following districts:-

Alnwick R.D.	Alnwick U.D.	Amble U.D.	Belford R.D.	Berwick M.B.	TOTAL
6	2	2	1	8	19

DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN

Affected animals were either grazed in fields or kept in yards in the following districts:-

Alnwick R.D.	Belford R.D.	Glendale R.D.	Norham and Islandshires R.D.	Berwickshire	Not Known	TOTAL
5	5	1	2	4	2	19

AGE AND SEX OF ANIMALS

	Calf-teeth	2 teeth	4 teeth	6 teeth	Full mouth	Not stated
Bullocks	-	4	3	2	1	2
Heifers	-	1	1	-	-	-
Not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	5

HISTORY OF ANIMALS

Irish origin (length of stay on farms varied between 3 and 8 months)	10
Home Bred	3
Not known	6

SITE LOCATIONS

All 19 cases were localised and lesions were confined to the head, heart and diaphragm. Active cysts were found in 6 cases, and after condemnation of the affected parts, the 6 carcasses were submitted to cold storage treatment.

There were no cases in which both active and degenerated cysts were found.

			<u>NUMBER OF CASES</u>		
			Active cysts	Degenerated cysts	Both active and degenerated
Lesions confined to HEAD only					
		1 cyst	3	5	-
		2 cysts	1	-	-
"	"	" HEART only			
		1 cyst	1	5	-
		2 cysts	-	2	-
"	"	" HEAD and HEART			
		1 cyst in each	-	1	-
"	"	" HEART and DIAPHRAGM			
		1 cyst in each	1	-	-
TOTALS			<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS 1957/58/59

	<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>Jly</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1957	3	1	1	2	1	-	-	1	3	2	2	1	17
1958	2	-	1	-	1	2	4	-	-	2	1	1	14
1959	6	2	2	-	2	1	1	1	3	-	-	1	19

